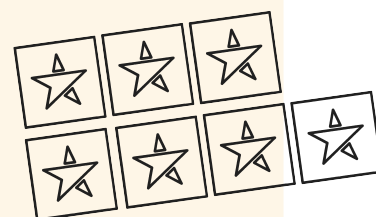




QS Stars Case Study: Victoria University of Wellington

Founded in 1897, Victoria University of Wellington is a global-civic university located in the heart of New Zealand's vibrant capital city. At its three central campuses, the University offers more than 170 undergraduate or postgraduate programmes, from pathway to PhD, across eight teaching faculties. Approximately 22,000 students, including international students from more than 100 countries, comprise the university's diverse student community. The university values meaningful involvement in the social, cultural, and economic life in the Wellington region and in internationalisation initiatives. The university takes pride in the excellence of its research, teaching, and transformative engagement that is both locally relevant and internationally significant.



According to the NZ Tertiary Education Commission's latest Performance-Based Research Fund quality evaluation round, Victoria University of Wellington is New Zealand's top-ranked university for intensity of high-quality research. The University is ranked in the top 2 percent of the world's 18,000 universities and the top 1 percent of universities worldwide for 18 subjects according to the QS World University Rankings. The Wellington School of Business and Government is one of an elite group of commerce faculties worldwide that hold the Triple Crown of international accreditations of EQUIS, AACSB (Business), and AMBA. Students at Victoria University of Wellington benefit from the university's internationally-recognised and award-winning academics who are passionate about their subjects and provide interactive and practical learning opportunities through world-class facilities.



Driven by the core ethical values of respect, responsibility, fairness, integrity, and empathy, Victoria University of Wellington honours New Zealand's bicultural heritage and the Treaty of Waitangi and welcomes students into an inclusive learning environment with the marae (Māori meeting house) at its heart. The university is also participating in a Living Building Challenge that draws together sustainable building practices and Māori knowledge, creating a [Living Pā](#) that will enhance the marae's teaching, learning, and research space and create a sense of community around the marae for all students.



What were the main reasons for your institution to conduct a reaudit with QS Stars?

QS Stars is a highly-regarded rating system which receives opt-in from leading universities throughout the world. Conducting a reaudit with QS Stars allows Victoria University of Wellington to retain its 5 Stars Plus status as one of only 20 other universities in the world with this rating. With this rating, our institution can use its standing in the global rankings to promote the University's excellence in an increasingly competitive international education market.

The QS Stars audit's unique and varied criteria also give the university a valuable tool to shine light on how the university is performing and competing across diverse areas, from research excellence to employability outcomes. While the QS World University Ranking gives a view of how the university ranks against others in a linear sense on basic metrics, QS Stars provides more nuance about how the university supports the student experience, in a rigorous and detailed audit of a broad range of activities.

What objectives have QS Stars helped you to achieve over the years?

Victoria University of Wellington achieves the objective of being able to measure and promote the breadth of what makes the university outstanding. The holistic criteria and granular detail included in the QS Stars audit provide a robust picture of what shapes student experience at university. Criteria such as inclusiveness and facilities tap into some of the environmental drivers of why a student may decide to attend one university over another.

In addition to representing academic and research excellence, the university's 5 Stars Plus rating therefore achieves the objective of representing the context of an inclusive internationalised setting, access to arts and culture in a vibrant capital city, strong employability outcomes, and excellence of teaching and facilities. Victoria University of Wellington's 5 Stars Plus rating across the eight criteria on which the university was audited solidify its competitiveness as a well-rounded university, with something to offer all students.

Please share how your institution have been using QS Stars.

Our QS Stars rating is visible as a marker of quality on the Victoria University of Wellington website, on publications, and in international marketing and recruitment initiatives. Earning a 5 Stars Plus rating reinforces the university's commitment to maintaining this level of excellence and identifying any areas where improvements could be made. The results of the QS Stars audit are shared internally, and feed into institutional discussions of long-term strategy.

How has the institution benefited QS Stars in terms of brand reputation?

Victoria University of Wellington has conducted three audits with QS Stars and uses the ratings as well as QS University Rankings to promote the university internationally. Victoria University of Wellington benefits from the brand reputation QS Stars brings, by promoting the QS Stars rating through the university's own marketing activities.



How does QS Stars help to improve the institutional's long-term strategy?

Victoria University of Wellington's Strategic Plan 2020-24 includes priorities that resonate with the indicators evaluated by QS Stars, meaning that the ratings can provide one set of criteria for the university to evaluate some of its institutional strategies over time. For example, one of the university's strategies is 'equitable outcomes for all,' and QS indicators under the 'inclusiveness' category – such as 'low-income outreach' and 'scholarships and bursaries' – provide one measure of the university's performance in providing access and equity.

The process of collecting data for the QS Stars audit has also assisted with streamlining data collection and information-sharing across the university, which strengthens the systems in place to conduct future monitoring and evaluation activities related to the university's strategic plan.

Describe the challenges that you were facing and how did QS Stars helped to overcome them?

In preparing for the audit, Victoria University of Wellington brings together stakeholders across the university to share data and collect qualitative information. This strengthens internal relationships and supports the flow of knowledge across the university, creating a sense of widely-shared engagement while maintaining the university's standard of excellence. At a systems level, the audit process for QS Stars also shines a light on how the university manages and stores its data, which supports the continued professionalisation of internal systems and data management.



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“Victoria University of Wellington takes pride in upholding a standard of excellence in the opportunities we provide to our students – in our research and teaching, our internationalisation initiatives, our great employability outcomes, and more. Earning 5 Stars Plus, as one of only 20 other universities in the world with this QS Stars rating, demonstrates the outstanding reputation of Victoria University of Wellington amidst an increasingly competitive global education market. We look forward to continuing to use QS Stars as a rating system that thoroughly examines the university’s performance. With QS Stars, Victoria University of Wellington demonstrates our ongoing commitment to providing an exceptional experience to our diverse student community.”



Blair McRae
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Engagement)
Vice-Chancellor's Office



QS Stars explained

QS Stars is a globally-recognised rating system for higher education institutions. Ratings are achieved through an in-depth assessment across at least eight categories, resulting in an overall rating of 1 to 5+ Stars and a rating of 1 to 5 Stars for each category.

Following the assessment, QS provides a detailed report summarising the results in each category. This allows institutions to recognise their strengths, as well as weaker areas which may require attention and improvement.

The QS Stars package also includes a set of badges with the ratings achieved overall and in each category. Institutions may use these in their own marketing materials to show perspective students their strengths in areas that matter most, such as Teaching and Employability.

OUTSTANDING



Teaching



Facilities



Employability



Inclusiveness



Internationalisation



Arts & Culture



Research



Library & Information Management



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